

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 120615Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6898

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (VALEO, FRANCIS J.)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL VALEO

REF: (A) STATE 237554; (B) SEOUL 7253

1. STAFFDEL VALEO DEPARTED SEOUL NOV 8 AFTER TWO FULL DAYS OF EMBASSY BRIEFINGS AND CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVE TOP-LEVEL AND MIDDLE MANAGEMENT LEVELS OF KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS.

2. AT BREAKFAST MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, STAFFDEL DISCUSSED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS FACING KOREA AND ROK-JAPANESE RELATIONS. STAFFDEL IMPRESSED WITH PROGRESS MADE BY KOREA DESPITE CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS RESULT OF ENERGY CRISIS AND EXPORT DECLINES.

2. ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND AID DIRECTOR PARTICIPATED WITH STAFFDEL IN TWO HOUR BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE. STAFFDEL EVINced WIDE-RANGING AND INFORMED INTEREST IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION AND IN ROK FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN EFFECT OF FOUR MAJOR POWER INTERPLAY ON KOREA'S PROSPECTS. WHILE STAFFDEL'S OWN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES SEEMED TO ACCORD WITH BASIC LINES OF U.S. POLICY, HE EMPHASIZED GLOOMY CONGRESSIONAL OUTLOOK ON MAINTAINING TROOP AND AID LEVELS AND URGED MORE ADVANCED PLANNING AND COURCPATION WITH ROKS ON THESE SUBJECTS.

4. STAFFDEL ALSO MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM TOK-U, BOTH VICE SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND CROSS-SECTION OF TOP-LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS AND BANKING COMMUNITY AT  
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DINNER HOSTED BY KOREAN BUSINESSMAN HEUNG SIK PARK, PRESIDENT,

WHASHIN IND. INC., AND ORGANIZED BY SON, SIMEON. IN LUNCHEON  
WITH LOCAL MIDDLE-LEVEL MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES, STAFFDEL  
ADVANCED WELL-PREPARED AND PROVOCATIVE QUESTION TO GROUP ON  
SUBJECT OF KOREAN REACTION TO HYPOTHETICAL SUDDEN AND DRASTIC  
REDUCTION OF US AID TO KOREA. GROUP INDICATED THAT GOVERNMENT  
AND BUSINESS WERE INDEED BROADENING THEIR ECONOMIC  
PARTNERSHIPS AND WERE SEEKING OUT NEW MARKETS ETC. BUT GROUP  
WAS NOT QUITE READY TO FACE ISSUE SQUARELY. CRUX OF STAFFDEL  
QUESTION WAS THAT TIME MIGHT BE SHORTER THAN ANY PARTNER MAY BE  
ABLE TO ANTICIPATE GIVEN CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION.  
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